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noticed from a hasty reading of the book. Happily, most of them are errors of minor importance, but they indicate a hurry of preparation which text-book writers would do well to guard against. Apart from this, Professor Hart's book is a unique and valuable contribution to the literature of civil government in the United States.

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Lavissee: Histoire de France, Vol. I, Part 1, *Tableau de la Géographie de la France*. By P. VIDAL DE LA BLACHE. Pp. 395. Vol. II, Part 1, *Le Christianisme, Les Barbares Mérovingiens et Carolingiens*. By BAYET, PFISTER and KLEINCLAUSZ. Pp. 444. Paris: Hachette, 1903.

In the first section, *Personnalité Géographique de la France*, the author treats of the form and structure of France, the influence of the Mediterranean and of the neighboring countries, and the physiognomy in general. The second section, which comprises four-fifths of the volume, is a description of the individual portions. There is an abundance of excellent maps and figures. The treatment is based upon the latest researches, and is masterly. The concise statements, the scientific exactitude, and the delightful characterizations of the various sections, are equally admirable.

The author connects the geography and history of France in a most illuminating manner; but he realizes fully the action of history upon the relations between man and the soil which he inhabits. The latter point is brought out especially well in the conclusion, where he shows the way in which the centralization of the French monarchy interfered with the material development of France.

The maps on pages 378, 379 and 382, showing respectively the Roman roads, the post roads at the end of the eighteenth century, and the principal railroads at the present day, are especially instructive.

His hints as to the possibility of developments in France, because of changes now taking place, are very interesting. "*L'histoire de notre pays nous fait assister à un riche développement de dons variés, mais elle ne nous fournit qu'une traduction incomplète des aptitudes de la France. Nos générations auraient tort de se complaire au spectacle du passé au point d'oublier que dans nos montagnes, nos fleuves, nos mers, dans l'ensemble géographique qui se résume dans le mot France, bien des énergies attendent encore leur tour.*" "*L'étude attentive de ce qui est fixe et permanent dans les conditions géographiques de la France, doit être ou devenir plus que jamais notre guide.*"

We regret that there is no separate index for this portion. Of course, there will be a general index when the whole work is concluded, but a special index for this geographical tableau would be more serviceable.

The second volume is an instance of remarkably successful coöperative work. M. Bayet contributes Book I, *Le Christianisme et les Germains en Gaule*, and Chapter V of Book II, on *L'Eglise, Les Lettres, Les Arts* of the Merovingian period. M. Pfister writes the other chapters of Book II on the Merovingian period, and, in addition, Chapters VI and VII of the Third

Book on "the last Carolingians" and "the Origins of the Feudal Régime." M. Kleinclausz, who last year published his work on *L'Empire Carolingien*, has the same subject here.

Although necessarily separated in the chronological make-up of the book, M. Bayet's and M. Pfister's contributions form logical unities. The chapter on the Merovingian Church supplements naturally the account of the early Church. In M. Pfister's work, his chapter on Merovingian institutions and the origins of feudalism might almost be brought together under the latter title and published apart from the context.

Now that more than half of this history has been published, it has come to be almost a work of supererogation to praise the individual parts. Yet in this volume one may well become enthusiastic over the qualities common to all three—the delightful style, the skillful use and embodiment of passages from the original sources, and the carefully selected bibliographical notes. In this volume, too, there is a considerable number of notes discussing disputed points. Some other volumes have been deficient in this respect. Even here M. Bayet accepts the Edict of Milan (page 11) without suggesting that its authenticity has been questioned; and (page 13) he makes pagans equivalent to peasants in the fourth century, and both words derived from *pagani*, without a hint that this idea does not now command universal approval. Occasionally there are other statements which are open to discussion, but this is due generally to the fact that for these events the sources are few and unsatisfactory, so that the statements must rest upon skillful deductions rather than assured facts.

The volume as a whole has unusual excellence; possibly the parts that will prove most interesting to students are the chapter on the Carolingian Civilization, by M. Kleinclausz; the Origins of Feudalism, by M. Pfister, and the section on *Les Lettres* (pp. 243-251), by M. Bayet, although many will doubtless enjoy the latter's *L'Évangélisation de la Gaule*.

In conclusion, we may congratulate ourselves that this history is now complete for the whole of the Middle Ages. It has fulfilled its early promise of superseding all other histories of France.

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An Introduction to the History of Western Europe. By JAMES HARVEY ROBINSON, Professor of History in Columbia University. Pp. x, 714. Price, \$1.60. Boston: Ginn & Co., 1903.

Professor Robinson's text-book in medieval and modern European history marks a distinct advance in American historical text-book writing in the general European field, and there seems to be no good reason why the author's manifest intention to invade England should not be realized. The book is "Entered at Stationers' Hall." It has striking merits and its defects are, relatively, minor.

The conspicuous merit of the book is its interpretative character; it is an explanatory history and not simply a narrative history. Events, con-